



## **TOWN OF GARNER**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Lt. Chris Clayton,

Garner Police Department

**PHONE:** (919) 661-6980

**E-MAIL:** [cclayton@garnernc.gov](mailto:cclayton@garnernc.gov)

## **Garner Police Earn CALEA Reaccreditation**

The Garner Police Department has earned its seventh accreditation award from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and formally received its CALEA certificate of advanced meritorious accreditation at the April 22 Town Council meeting.

The meritorious accreditation recognizes agencies for having been accredited for 15 or more continuous years. The Garner Police Department was first accredited under Chief Tom Moss in 1994.

There are currently 629 municipal agencies in the United States out of 14,000 – or 4.5 percent – that have law enforcement accreditation through CALEA. The Garner Police Department is one of 34 municipal law enforcement agencies in North Carolina to be accredited – out of more than 500 in the state.

“I am extremely proud of the men and women of the Garner Police Department,” Police Chief Brandon Zuidema said. “Their good work is demonstrated through recognition such as CALEA accreditation. We are committed to providing quality service to residents, businesses and visitors in Garner, and that service is enhanced through our maintaining these professional standards.”

Dana Clay is the department’s accreditation specialist and serves as accreditation manager. She was presented with a CALEA certificate of appreciation at the Town Council meeting.

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CALEA assessors were in Garner in November to conduct their onsite assessment. The Police Department was required to demonstrate compliance with more than 460 standards on a recurring three-year cycle.

During the award cycle, “an accredited law enforcement agency must maintain compliance with applicable standards, keep its proofs of compliance up to date and live by the letter and spirit of those standards,” according to the CALEA website. To retain accredited status, the agency must submit an annual report to CALEA. Reaccreditation occurs at the end of the three years, following another successful on-site assessment and hearing before CALEA.

CALEA was represented by Commissioner Hassan Aden, chief of police in Greenville, N.C., at the April 22 Town Council meeting.

CALEA was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of law enforcement’s major executive associations. The commission was established to develop a set of law enforcement standards, and to establish and administer an accreditation process through which law enforcement agencies could demonstrate voluntarily that they meet professionally recognized criteria for excellence in management and service delivery. For more information about CALEA, visit [www.calea.org](http://www.calea.org).

For more information on the Garner Police Department, please contact Lt. Chris Clayton at (919) 661-6980 or by email at [cclayton@garnernc.gov](mailto:cclayton@garnernc.gov). You can also learn more about the department at [www.garnerpd.org](http://www.garnerpd.org) or by following the department on Twitter (@GarnerPolice).

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